Transcript of tape made by telephone, Memphis to New Orleans, 1:45 a.m., April 11,1968. Matt Herren in Memphis, HW in NO. J. Working present.

Matt? Why don't I start it off and then stop it and you check to see whether we're getting good reception.

HW. Uh, go ahead.

Background voice. ....

Speaker. Right. Now, on Thursday, March 4, 1968, I was at a meeting at the Motor Lodge.

Matt. How's that? Ok?

HW. The indicator is good. Hold it, and I'll go back.

Matt. Hete we go.

HW. Go ahead.

Matt. What?

HW. Go ahead.

Background voice. ...

Speaker. Now, on Thursday, March 4, 1968, I was at a meeting at Sheraton Motor Lodge -

Matt. Now, will you say your name?

Speaker. My name is Albert C. Hanes. I work for Employment Division, and I'm also the president of the Memphis, Tennessee, association for the advancement of the blind. The Memphis Commission for the blind which is composed of a number of business men, civic, social and just private citizens who are interested in the advancement and the betterment of the blind, met on March 4, 1968, at the Sheraton Motor Lodge, which is a monthly meeting place the first Thursday in the month for this meeting. Now, at this meeting were Mrs. Audrey Hall, Mrs. Audrey Brench Hall, Tennessee Human Development, and Mr. Latham, director of Tennessee Depositor Welfare -

Background voice. Latham, LAT -

Speaker. Latham.

Background voice....Do you know how that would be spelled?

Speaker. I think it's spelled something like - I don't know the way he spells it, but I think it's

pronounced like the street, here in Memphis.

Voice. I see. L A T H A M.

Speaker. Uh-huh. And the director of City and County Welfare, Mr. Graham. Those two gentlemen were sitting directly in front of Mrs. Hall and myself, respectively, ~~at the rear(?)~~ on the end of the table. Now, to - well, directly in front of me was Mr. Latham and to his immediate right was another blind fellow, white, of the Progressive Year for the Blind - uh, I can't think of his name; he's the president of that group.

Voice. Progressive Year for the Blind?

Speaker. That's right. And to his right was Mr. Bob McKnight, blind, with the APL Industry for the Blind, formerly the Tennessee Workshop for the Blind. And - I don't know whether it was directly to his right ~~after him, anyway,~~ at the end or whether it went around the table, was Mr. Liggens, Conrad Liggens, of the Tenn. Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, and the -

Voice. ..Liggins? L I G --

Speaker. L I G G I N S. And a new councilor whose name I am not quite familiar with. And at the end of the table was Mr. ~~Wingfield~~ Winfield, who is the president of the Memphis Citizens Committee for the Blind. And on the other end also was a - uh, a - A Mr. Bob Farley Folley, I believe ~~you~~ he pronounce his last name, but he was also the Senator for the ... the state from Shelby County, and the state ~~like~~ legislature.

Voice. Would you state his last name again?

Speaker. Bob Farley. I believe, Farley.

Voice. F O L L E Y ?

Speaker. I believe it's the way he pronounces it. Bob Farley.

Voice. He's the Senator from Shelby County?

Speaker. From Shelby County. Shelby County delegation. Nashville Assembly State - uh, Tennessee.

Voice. Right.

Speaker. And another gentlemen, a Dr. somebody. I don't know his name, but I believe he was from Memphis State.

Voice. ,,,

Speaker, Now, as to the - to my left, the gentleman to my left - and this was somewhat about - Our meeting usually started at ~~12~~ 12 o'clock. We got there about 20 minutes to 12 - and the conversation that was going on was in regard to the coming march of Dr. Martin Luther King — Monday. It had possibly - was scheduled for Friday. Bob McKnight was leading the discussion. And he said some~~body~~what in these words; I cannot quote it exact - that Martin Luther King thinks he's gonna march, but there's a man that was at my house from northern Mississippi, A young man, who thinks different, and he sort of intimated that Martin Luther King would never live to carry out that march. I - this ~~xxxxx~~ shocked me so much that the conversation begin to tone down when someone evidently gave him the sign that I was in the - and the other lady was in their presence, because at first we ~~have~~ had been previously sitting at another table. But in the course of the ~~closed~~ ~~session~~ conversation, Mr. Graham and Mr. Latham continued to be interested in carrying the conversation, talking about the curfew and the lack of sale of liquor, and various things, to divert my attention from the general ~~of~~ conversation at the end of the table. But the only thing that I definitely remember, and it did not occur to me ~~that~~ - the significance of this until after Dr. King was killed. And that in the conversation it was mentioned that there was a - was a white ~~xxxxx~~ frame ~~xxxx~~ building directly across from the hotel in which this person would be stationed. Now, I did not know the significance of this because I - ~~xxxxxx~~ it puzzled me for a while. I could not place in my mind a white ragged building or ~~white~~ frame house of any kind of

that description directly across from a hotel. Never having gone to the Lorraine Hotel in my life not in - not in - down in that area, not in my ~~cited(?)~~ sighted life that I could ~~never picked a~~ remember picture this type of situation and I did not realize ~~that the rest of them did~~ the significance of this until afterwards. But from the ~~dinner~~ general conversation that I have, that if the Justice Departemtn would ~~appeal to~~ subpena Mr. Bob McKnight, Mr. Bob Farley, and Mr. Winfield that they can get the complete description and the names of the assassins of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Insert →

Matt. Harold?

HW. Yes, I think I got it all well.

Matt. Could you hear it?

HW. Yes, I could hear it very clearly. If you'd like, there's someone else with me, I'll play the last part of it back -

Matt. No, if you got it, that's fine. I want to talk about a little bit -

HW. Go ahead, Go ahead. You're still wired.

Matt. Do yiu think it's as significant as I do?

HW. Yes, I do. I think it can't be ignored and has to be checked out at the very least.

Matt. Well, there's another person who was there who can corroborate it, so what we have, I think, is uh - who is it, Gerald Jarnigan, who sat in Ruby's night club?

HW. Yes?

Matt. That kind of thing and listened to Ruby and Oswald talk about it? I think it's that kind of material only with a corroborating witness. Now, it seems to me that this is so explosive, you know, that I - and also that it's more useful now before an official version is brought forward -

HW. Correct.

Matt. - that I really need some advice on how to proceed. I'm going to meet with the other person tomorrow and get a statement from her. She's quite - quite scared, but I think I can uh -

HW. You'd rather not use the name now?

Matt. No, I use the name now. Uh, her name is Hall.

Hanes. I can't picture and I don't want to say this on record, but the conspiracy goes all the way to the mayor.

Q. All the way to the mayor?

H. To the mayor. All the way.

Q. All the way to the mayor.

H. Someone in high authority. If it's not, it's just a step below.

Q. Uh, what leads you to feel this way?

H. Because of the people who The people who is all the Memphis Council for the Blind. The association is under the direct leadership of the mayor, and all of these people was close friends of the mayor.

Q. Hmm.

H. This is off the record. This is just my thinking.

The car went

H. ~~They xxxxxxxxxx~~ a 100 feet down Main Street. Until they got to that fire station.

Q. You think the car went to the fire station and vanished.

H. Right.

Q. Why do you say that?

H. It has been proven by records, you can get all types of investigation, ~~xx~~ and the people will tell you that no car can get out of the city of Memphis if Memphis wants to seal it off because they can seal off - they can seal off Memphis in two and a half minutes.

Voice. ....

Q. Of course, this is what happened when President Kennedy was assassinated. They didn't seal off Dallas at all. In fact, hours later you could leave by the airport, with no and obviously they didn't seal Memphis off, either.

H. They didn't seal this off.

Q. Uhmhm. Now, he said a white frame building across from the Lorraine Hotel.

H. Now this is what I understood him to say, but I it's not frame

Q.

H. Yes.

Q. I'm wondering if maybe you were referring to another building

(Tape unintelligible here)

H. You see, just before the meeting was over, Mr. Winfield said that he wanted the agent/the organizations for the blind; that is the Association for the Blind, the Association for the Advancement of the Blind, and the Year for the Blind. It was a short meeting directly after the regular meeting. The lady that brought me out, Mrs. Hall, had to get back to her office. Well, we stayed. Now, this is what the meeting resulted in, that they will have a meeting on the 18th of March and they wanted to have it opposite

'cause I couldn't get out there. It was too far away.

Q. ...

H.- Yes. April. Uh, and uh, he said that uh, we would uh, have the meeting there. And - but there was no format as to what we were going to talk about. ~~Then~~ Then they changed it so that we'd have it in Mr. Graham's office, and I - that was in 1-B-1 at the uh - in the courthouse. Be there at 1:30. And he said that the business would last 10 or - maybe 30 minutes. Then he said that the other business might last a couple of hours. And this is why I have been somewhat reluctant to say this because I am suspicious that these people follow a suspicion that I have more information about what they were talking about than actually I have. And I'm afraid for my own safety because at this meeting

Q. Umhm.

H. But I

Q. Well, uh -

H. Not hearing him, but

Q. Yes.

H. Because I don't know what - what - what would be

And another thing, if possible, I predicted if this get out, you'd have to turn this over to the

Q.

H. In other words, it will not -

Q. I promise you we won't turnthis over to anyone till we work that out. The only person -

H. That's why I couldn't talk on the phone. Cause my phone has been tapped. I know it's been tapped. I've heard different signals that let me know it's tapped.

Q2. In other words, your sense of hearing is much greater than mine.

H. That's true.

Q2. Any blind person's is. I am well aware of this.

Q. You uh - Mr. McKnight mentioned a group in north in North Mississippi. Do you have any idea what or where that might be?

H. No, I don't. He mentioned a name.

Q. ~~Hexmentionedxaxnamen~~ Could it be South Haven?

H. I don't know. He mentioned a name of a person, but I didn't catch it, because it was then the other people engaged me in conversation and diverted me from -

Q. Yes.

H. - the main line of the conversation.

Q. Can you give me just a rough general idea of what that name might have sounded like or -

H. Uh-uh. No, I can't.

Q. Yes.

H. But I know the name - whatever this man is named, it's registered at the hotel if it's a person's name. I can almost be certain of that.

Q. The individual that's the real killer.

H. Well, might be too much if it the real name. It might be the real killer but that is not his name.

Q2. Right.

Q. In other words, the name of the man who registered at the hotel was not the name ~~ofxthe~~ that McKnight mentioned.

H. No. Uh-uh.

Q. Now, you said there was another lady there that they also tried to engage in conversation?

H. That's right. That's Mrs. Hall.

Q. Do you think there is a possibility if we go to her in confidence she will give us information?

H. I would doubt it.

HW. Oh, then you have akrady used the name.

Matt. Already used the name where?
the name on the tape

HW. He used it, did he not?

Matt. Yes, he used the name on the tape.

Hw. Mrs. Audrey.

Matt. Mrs. Audrey Branch Hall, I believe. At any rate, we've - with two statements like this, I - I think either - well, ideally, I suppose, you'd then run - you'd look into the associations of the other people, but I;m not sure there's enough time for that.

Hw. Yes. May I offer some unsolicited advice?

Matt. Well, I'm soliciting advice.

Hw. You're on assignment for a magazine?

Matt. Uh, more or less.

HW. More or less?

Matt. Uh -

Hw. You should - there's no reason in the world why that's not as good a way to use it as any other.=

Matt. Yes.

Hw. And this you should get paid for. The alternative is TV and there I don't know if I can do you any good. And if you wanted to -

Matt. Well, I have all the connections I need. I just want this thing well checked out and verified before it goes on. Now I believe this guy. I think he's absolutely telling the truth.

Hw. It is also subject to disproof if he's not, and in the absence of the mention of a man's name, I don't see anything libelous.

Matt. In the absence of the mention of who - the man who's making the statement?

Hw. No. The man who is supposed to have done the deed.

Matt. Oh, I see what you mean. The only thing libelous is that, if true, all of these people who were higher officials, the state senator and actually turned out to be the representative - and some officials of the city of Memphis who are ...

HW. That is correct. That is correct. And in one case before the fact.

Matt. In one case before the fact. Right.

Hw. Well, again, Matt, I would get the other tape first.

Matt. Yes. Absolutely. But do you think it's enough to have the other tape? For example, you know, these guys are going to come in like hell as soon as it comes out.

Hw. Yes, that's right. And uh - the only thing - what you have done, of course, to a large degree, is to get the kind of detail that is helpful in establishing credibility - where people were sitting and what the time was, and who was where, and so forth.

Matt. Yes. Well -

HW. I think that sort of thing is helpful. Uh, if it were a less blighted part of the world, uh, perhaps other things might be, but my own offhand opinion, Matt, is that it ought to be used, if anybody will, and soon. Uh, if you have TV connections, it should be worth more there.

Matt. Well, I don't really care about the money.

Hw. There's an advantage to caring about the money. It will enable you to do other things. And it's a funny thing, Matt. People seem to suspect what they get for nothing.

Matt. Huh.

Hw. I - I - look. You should have had more experience along that line than I.

Matt. Yes. Well, what I have done, I shipped a tape off earlier this evening to my agent in NY.

HW. That's the best thing.

Matt. And I'm going to talk to him about it.

HW. That's the best thing. I was going to give you the name of my agent, who is also Chet Huntley's.

Matt. Yes. Well, no. He can advise me better on this. And the other thing is I have to consider the safety of the people here.

HW. That is a prime consideration.

Matt. Yes. And uh - what would you do if you were in my position as far as I;m concerned?

HW. I don't know. I am confronted with exactly the same situation. I have something not quite of this magnitude, but in a way of great magnitude. And I am doing everything that I can conceive of with the same thing in mind, protection. I do think that the tape should not be released in this form because it points the finger at these sources of your information.